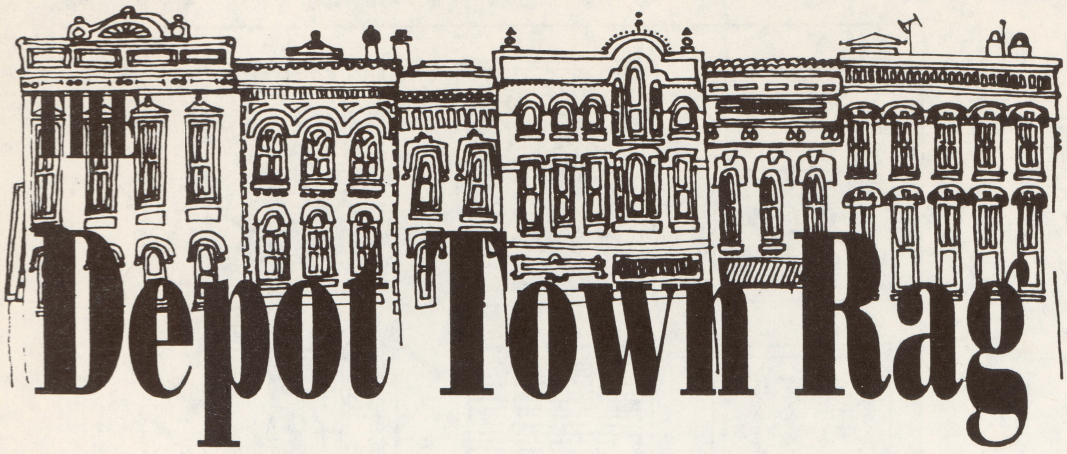


Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Merchants - 7:30, Monday, 12th

Association - 7:30, Thursday, 15th

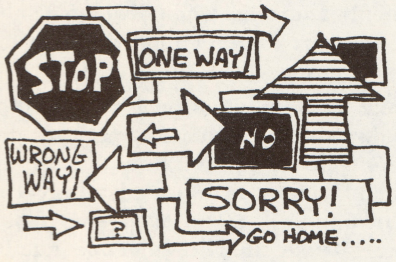
Foundation - 8:00, Thursday, 22nd

...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Annual D.T.A. Election Meeting Thursday, 15 September 1983 7:30 p.m. at the Caboose...

Nominations made at the August meeting include Rex Richie for President, John Waite for Vice President, Sue Freund for Treasurer and Tom Dodd for Secretary. More nominations are welcome from the floor at the election meeting. Be sure your Regular Membership dues are paid up ($25) and turn out to vote.



So You Think You Know Your Way Around Our Town?

Then just try to give easy-to-follow direction for finding these:

- YCUA's new headquarters
- Recreation park
- Downtown Willow Run
- City Hall, when coming in from Superior Township
- The Farmers' Market, from the Water Tower
- ACE Hardware from anywhere on the West Side
- Riverside Park's largest parking lot
- Frog Island's entry - after the bridge is out
- The Recycling Center
- The Post Office

As the salty Maine native must have said in a pithy Readers' Digest quote, " You just can't get there from here."

Lost!...In Ypsilanti

Ever notice how hard it is to get around this small city of ours? You may remember your first time in town, and the lack of articulation of traffic flow to and from the main centers of activity.

Ypsilanti, thank goodness, does not have a simple grid pattern of North/South/East/-West streets. Much of our traffic pattern was determined by where animals could most easily across the river. Indian trails followed the same routes and Godfroy's trading post capitalized on the convergence of trails which stretched from today's Michigan Avenue to Cross Street, in what is now Riverside Park. The Chicago Road angled through town, and the railroad mostly followed the river into town, creating another graceful angle into Ypsilanti.

Land, river and railroad - all played key roles in establishing the traffic patterns of Our Town, and as we grew, we tried to squnch a grid pattern between them.

Today, when visitors arrive DOWNTOWN, in DEPOT TOWN or on the campus of EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, there is no easy access to either of the other two. Downtown has no clear identification when coming from Ann Arbor or EMU. Once you're Downtown, Depot Town and EMU become mysterious. Depot Towners can get to the campus easily, but, with one-way streets going the wrong way, just try and find your way back! The easiest way for Down Towners and Depot Towners to connect is by walking through Riverside Park...If the lights are on!

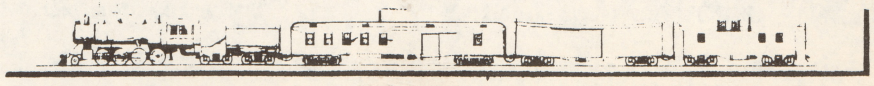
Ypsilanti boasts several parallel one-way streets going the same direction, right next to each other, so, circling the block doesn't always work. Maybe that's why "Ypsi" seems to be so much larger than it really is: it's hard work to get from one part of it to another.

Nearly a year ago, we suggested a new signage plan to City Manager Whaler to simplify things. The State Highway Department termed the proposal as "Trail Blazing", when referring to directing general traffic to specific locations in the city. (Actually those trails were blazed more than two hundred years ago. We just want to be able to use them again.)

Zirl E. Yek, Ypsilanti's director of traffic services says, "This action may be interpreted as an aid to a special interest group and not as true directional traffic assistance action to travelers." Mr. Yek might well follow the precedent of the Interstate 94 which, thankfully, passes just south of town. When they opened the new road they put up signs indicating which way to Chicago - which way to Detroit. We are sure the "special interests" in those cities appreciated that. So do the travelers. It's so much easier than just driving around and guessing where that road will take you. Could we do as well in our small, but confusing, city?

Van Whaler's executive secretary, Joan Helkaa says, "After comments from the Police and cost per signs, the project was placed on hold." We are well aware that City Hall memos can be as convoluted as driving our city streets, but just what was the cost of putting up signs helping people to find their way? What, we might also wonder, is the cost of not helping then find their way?

We suggest that there is nothing unique in helping travellers find their way. In fact. without all the block-circling, stopping to ask directions, and making of U-turns. adequate signage just might do something to improve the quality of life in Ypsilanti.



It's Curtains for Depot Town

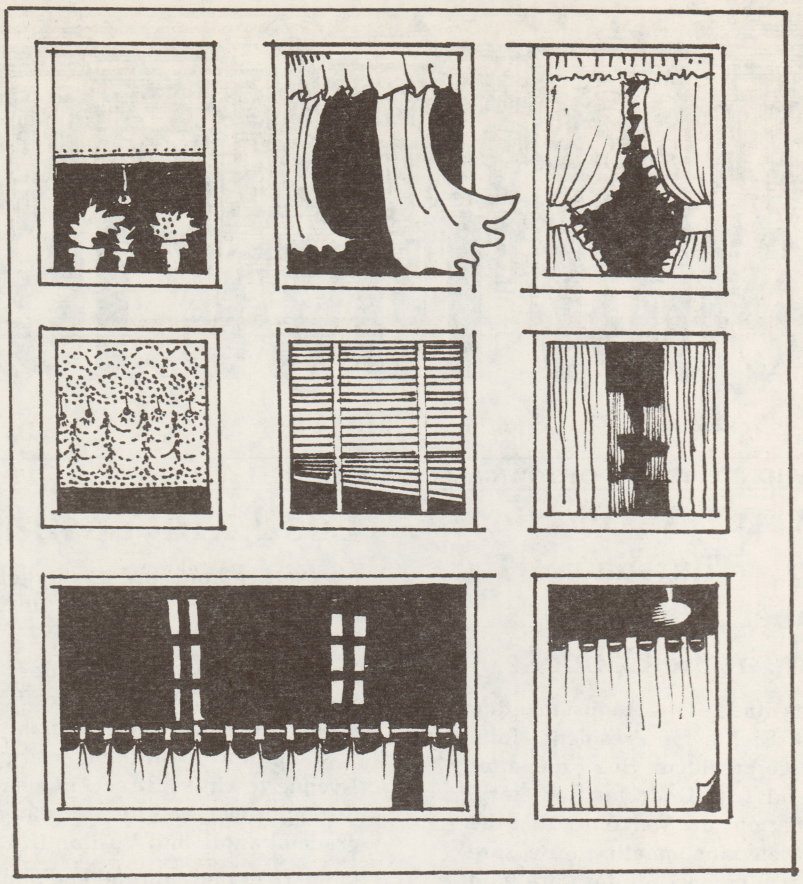
When George and Jane Bird hung that bunting around their bridge display in what will someday be the OLD TOWN RESTAURANT annex (our only vacant storefront), many noticed for the first time, how effective window draping can be. How many can remember when the gas companies had window dressers who toured all their local service stations and filled the windows with intricate crepe paper streamer designs with each changing season?

Most of Depot Town's windows are as homey as its residents. OLD TOWN RESTAURANT's front is made even more home-towny with its ecru lace curtains at each window opening. STANDARD PRINTING's blue drapes soften those square, little windows, and Emma Hall recently changed her orange drapes to blue - to complete the new monochomatic scheme of the Newell Block. Nice touch.

ROSEMARY'S CORNER sports tie-backs, as do the DELI SHOPPE windows and BELL'S PIZZA, Victorian Valences.

We spotted a simple valence at...AND EVERYTHING NICE, calling attention to its every-changing window display below. It's too hard to decorate way up there so why not curtain it?

Commercial cafes are seen at THE HEALTH EMPORIUM, just as cafe curtains were meant to be used in the first place: to back up a display below and admit light above. AUBREE'S SALOON uses a double tier cafe for the same effect.



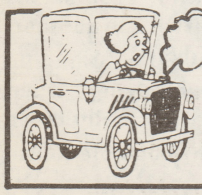
Curtains are used for light screens to filter out the bright, south sun at THE EAGLES and the DEPOT MAILBOX. And, ironically, ESQUIRE CLEANERS sells a variety of attractive insulating window treatments, but has none installed in their north window.

ARTRAIN'S shuttered sheers are often left open for peekaboos into that posh interior and, for those who think only the first floor counts, notice how effective are the all white curtained windows above that space.

AUBREE'S has installed thin, wood blinds in their new upstairs, almost unnoticable from the street, but most effective from inside.

DEPOT EXCHANGE clearly saw the benefit of curtains when they hung sheers on their top floors, complementing their handsome, new exterior colors.

While making your own neighborhood window survey, notice how many windows are effectively lighted at night. A good display window is an excellent advertisement and will go on even after closing time. If your shop does not boast built-in display lights, why not add to our already homey effect by leaving a decorative house lamp on - with a 25-watt bulb softly calling attention to the interior of your handsome window?


CITY RADIATOR
11 E. CROSS
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
483-2248

Esquire INTERIORS
WINDOW TREATMENT SPECIALISTS
50% OFF VERTICAL BLINDS
We discount all types of INSULATED WINDOW TREATMENTS • CUSTOM MADE DRAPES and BEDSPREADS • MINI-BLINDS • WOVEN WOODS • CARPETING and WALLPAPER
10 E. CROSS 482-6338

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

TED'S AUTO ELECTRIC
307 N. River Street

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM

"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

APPLE HARVEST

"OCTOBER 7, 8, 9, 1983"

Priorities to be Established:

At the August meeting members established the following priority projects for the neighborhood throughout the next year:

- Development of a Depot Town merchants' brochure
- More involvment in Apple Harvest Weekend
- Promotion of the Farmers' Market
- Improved parking on the south side of Cross

Next in importance to those at the meeting were:

- A Foundatation Fund-raiser
- More adequate signage throughout the City
- The development and rehabilitation of Frog Island
- Closer ties between the Farmers' Market and Depot Town

Also eliciting the support of several were:

- Promotion of the Jazz tradition
- Boomer Days
- Sponsoring a "Strudel-off"
- More Caboose-oriented events
- And getting more windows open in the Caboose

More issues are still solicited for the September meeting and will be prioritized at that time. If this train is bound for "Glory" it had better agree on which way to head to get there.

Harvest Home Tour To Feature Depot Town & Downtown "Cliff Dwellers"

Apple Harvest Weekend will be completed Sunday, October 9 with a home tour featuring several upstairs owners' residences in both commercial districts of this city. Although Depot Towners have been bragging in recent years about the advantage of on-site owners, there are actually more cases of downtowners taking advantage of this unique and pleasant situation.

The event will feature nine remodeled residences, some complete, some in progress and a few still in the drawing and tearing-out planning committee for printing and advertising.

APPLE HARVEST week end

When In Doubt

★ *Pots*

★ *Bowls*

★ *Plates*

★ *Mugs*

★ *Covered Dishes*

By Potters

Rachael Luczak
Judy Andrews
Sandra Daulton

Expose Yourself
GOSA'S CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY
● Public relations
● Portraits ● Commercial
6 East Cross St - (313) 481-0154
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

SALOON Aubrey's

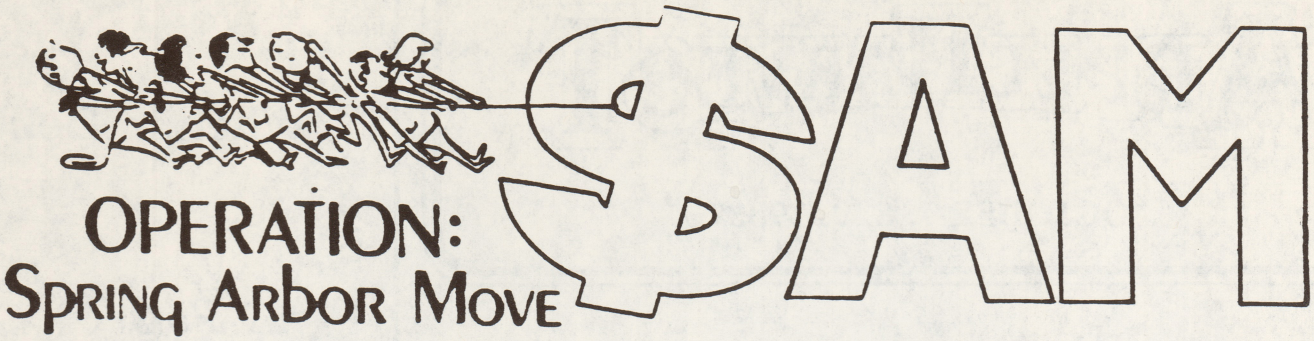
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

Burgers-Booze-Billards

IKE'S DEPOT TOWN BARBER SHOP
40 E. CROSS YPSILANTI
483-6300

PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC
COMIC BOOKS ● BASEBALL CARDS ● SUPPLIES
50 E. CROSS ● 485-4930
YPSILANTI, MI 48197

When In Doubt, Inc.
CARDS AND GIFTS
23 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-1448
in historic Depot Town
10-6 Mon. thru Fri. 10-5 Sat



OPERATION "SAM"* TO BENEFIT FESTIVAL

Spring Arbor Distributor will make a contribution to the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in the amount of $25-50,000 based on the number of volunteers and hours required to move their inventory from Ann Arbor to their new location at the former St. Regis Paper Company.

A minimum of 600 volunteers are required to accomplish this move on Wednesday, September 21 and Thursday, September 22 in shifts beginning at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. 11 p.m. each day.

Food and refreshments will be provided on site to all volunteers and transportation will be arranged for all workers. No one under the age of 18 years of age will be able to participate. Volunteers will be asked to remove books from shelves, pack in boxes and transport boxes to moving trucks. At the new facility, cartons will be unloaded and placed on the marked shelves. Moving dollys and similar equipment will be available, however boxes will not weight more than 25-30 lbs.

Here is an excellent opportunity for Depot Towners to make their dollar contribution to the operation of the Festival and help pay for next year's port-a-johns, parade units, entertainment, publicity, programs, posters, etc.

If you haven't already been contacted by Tom Dodd, call him. (482-6371) We're hoping to have seventy-five folks from the block to help with this "sure thing" fund-raiser.

* Spring Arbor Move

Plans to encourage businesses to relocate in Michigan cities are hatched all the time, but residents in Ypsilanti are giving local economic development a new twist. They have offered the services of over 600 volunteers to physically move the inventory of the nation's largest religious books distributor into a building on the southest side to town.

The president of Spring Arbor Distributors, James Carlson, has agreed to the proposal made by Ypsilanti leaders to use volunteers to move hundreds of thousands of religious looks form their current Ann Arbor location to a 150,000 square foot building in Ypsilanti formerly occupied by St. Regis Paper Company. The move will take place on September 21 and 22.

Community leaders approached the company with the idea as a fundraising project for the area's summer Heritage Festival. In exchange for the volunteer assistance, the company committed $25,000 - $50,000 to funding the Festival which has suffered financial woes due to cutbacks in Michigan Travel Bureau grant money.

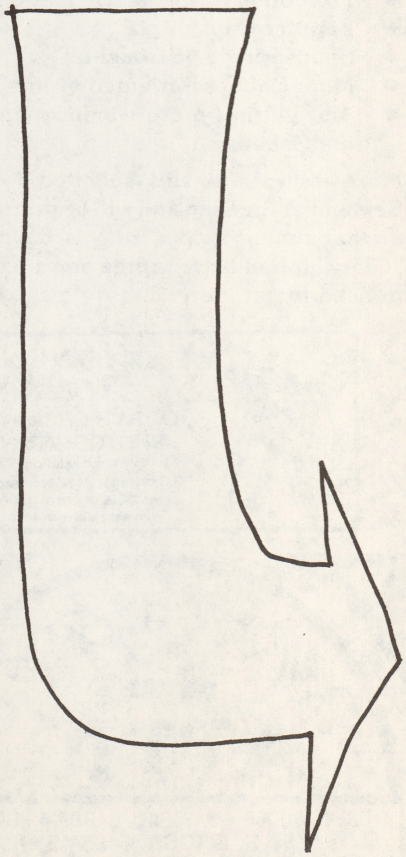
Organizers of the project agree it is ambitious, but have already received committments from the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce, numerous organizations and individuals.

"We are confident people will help us," said Nathalie Edmunds, Heritage Festival chairwoman and former City Council member. She said that people are signing up to help the Festival as well as to demonstrate that Ypsilanti will go to great lengths to help the local economy and prove it is an excellent place for business to locate.

Spring Arbor Currently employes 235 people and has grown substantially over the last four years. They expect continued growth after their move to Ypsilanti.

New Kid In Town:

Watch for national press and wire service coverage of a unique community involvement event. Hundreds of Ypsilanti citizens will turn out to move a new industry into the community - and will move them hand over hand from shelf to trucks, from trucks to shelf. All they ask is a donation to one of their favorite projects: Their annual festival. Many businesses are releasing employees for the day, others are doing double shifts one day.



Sept. 21 (Wed.) 7 AM- 3 PM
3 PM-11 PM
11 PM- 7 AM (Thurs. AM)

Sept. 22 (Thur) 7 AM- 3 PM
3 PM-11 PM
11 PM- 7 AM (if needed)

WITT SERVICES, INC./
OPERATION SPRING ARBOR MOVE
HERITAGE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Volunteer Register

PLEASE:
Return to the Caboose
at the September 15
ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

Date To Work	Name of Volunteer	Address	Home/Work Telephone Numbers	Shift	Employer/ Representative Group

Where Were YOU When The Lights Went Out?

8 p.m. Saturday night at the 1983 Heritage Festival saw the artists folding up their displays and lights were coming on all over the district to show thousands of visitors what Depot Town was like after dark. Apparently Edison's electrical system couldn't handle lights, too, on top of air conditioning, refrigeration and all the extra plug-ins for the biggest event this block sees all year. At about 8:14 p.m. the transformer behind the Follett House exploded, sending a flame at least twenty feet into the air. Amtrak sat in the station, waiting for signals to transport Festival goers back to Dearborn and Detroit. People flooded across the Cross street Bridge, not understanding what the violent phrotechnics meant, fearing for their safety. Some suspected a bomb had gone off.

Each of our north side businesses at first wondered if they had just blown their own fuses, but as it got darker, we realized that our entire north side was without electricity. Aubree's and the DTA/ WEMU jazz tent found auxilliary generators within an hour and half and Edison replaced the transformer by midnight with a much more powerful unit.

As we pump more and more energy into and out of our neighborhood, we find that the old facilities, plumbing, electricity, sewers, storm drains, etc., are just not up to today's standards and needs. As with each old building in the district, eventually ALL the services will be replaced with newer ones, and we'll just look old on the outside.

Murphy must have a law for this kind of situation. It's a lot like the traffic lights always turning green when you are not in a hurry, but the minute you have to rush across town they're all red.

Durant's / Downtown

Neighborhood pride in its existing architecture is not limited only to this block. Downtowners are checking progress weekly at DURANT'S FLOWERS on Michigan Avenue. Bill Durant's place was another of those covered with the 1960's cheese-grater style and he had it taken off this summer to show it's 1920's authenticity. The first floor façade is being completely rebuilt and, while it was being torn out, the plywood barricade sported the following advice:

"Our windows were't broken
There wasn't a fire,
And a car didn't drive through our store
We're open for business
But during construction
Please kindly use our back door."

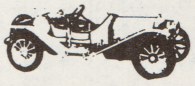
Now that their front is open again, stop in and see the dramatic, new entrance to the second floor showroom and pay particular attention to the facade details not found in Depot Town: new limestone around the first floor opening and the original first floor facade in egg-and-dart motif - repeated in the second floor window caps. Brick dentils (like teeth) make a simple and understated top detail, almost the reverse of our 1860's - 1870's styles.

Bill Durant's expertise in helping with the downtown planters is much appreciated. We confess: they're prettier than ours, mostly, except for those few "weedies" on Huron Street.

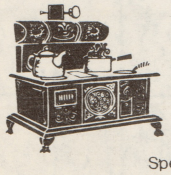
Newell Block Sparkles...

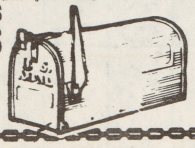
Long suspected as being the "sleeping giant" on the block, the new blue and white paint job on the building known as the Newell Block shows off its unusual combination of Italianate and Gothic windows above its third story. The building which houses IKE'S BARBERSHIP, MILLER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR and QUEEN EMMA's apartment on the first floor has reversed the color scheme found in late 1800's photos and accented their bays and window treatments with a surprising choice of colors which gives new direction to hues on this block. While DEPOT EXCHANGE and THE SIDETRACK applied the beautiful earth tones earlier in the summer, painters Eric Knight and Gene Daniels had another combination in their paint pails: A deep blue, a light blue and an almost white-grey for accent on the architectural grid and next to the window glass. The effect draws the eye to the still-intact detail at the top of the building. Clever masking of previous remuddling on the first floor recalls the earlier store front styles and covers the brick vener added many years ago. Although it was not all completed for the Festival, this paint job gave even the most casual tourist an opportunity for a "before and after"comparison.

483-0339 Depot Town
Standard Printing Co.
JOB PRINTING - PROGRAMS - PUBLICATIONS
Letterpress and Offset
35 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197

CITY BODY SHOP

• BUMPING & PAINTING
• AUTO GLASS INSTALLED
• ALIGNMENT & BALANCE
HUnter 24737 • 20 E. CROSS Cars, Trucks, Motor Homes

Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE
Delicatessen and Catering

In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions

Depot Mailbox
POSTAL BOX RENTALS
MESSAGE SERVICES
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN
485-499:


RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
PROFESSIONALS with • ALL GRAPHICS • NEEDLE CRAFT • FRAMING OF OBJECTS • ARCHIVAL FRAMING
GALLERY of ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM & SUPPLIES
• ARTS & CRAFTS CLASSES
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

The new copper porch on DEPOT EXCHANGE was done by Depot Town's Richard Rice, owner of METALWORKS, 306-C North River Street. Richard is responsible for the classy brass sign/logo outside Ann Arbor's Earle Hotel, along with many other Ann Arbor landmarks. Richard moved to the block earlier this year and specializes in custom brass and copper.

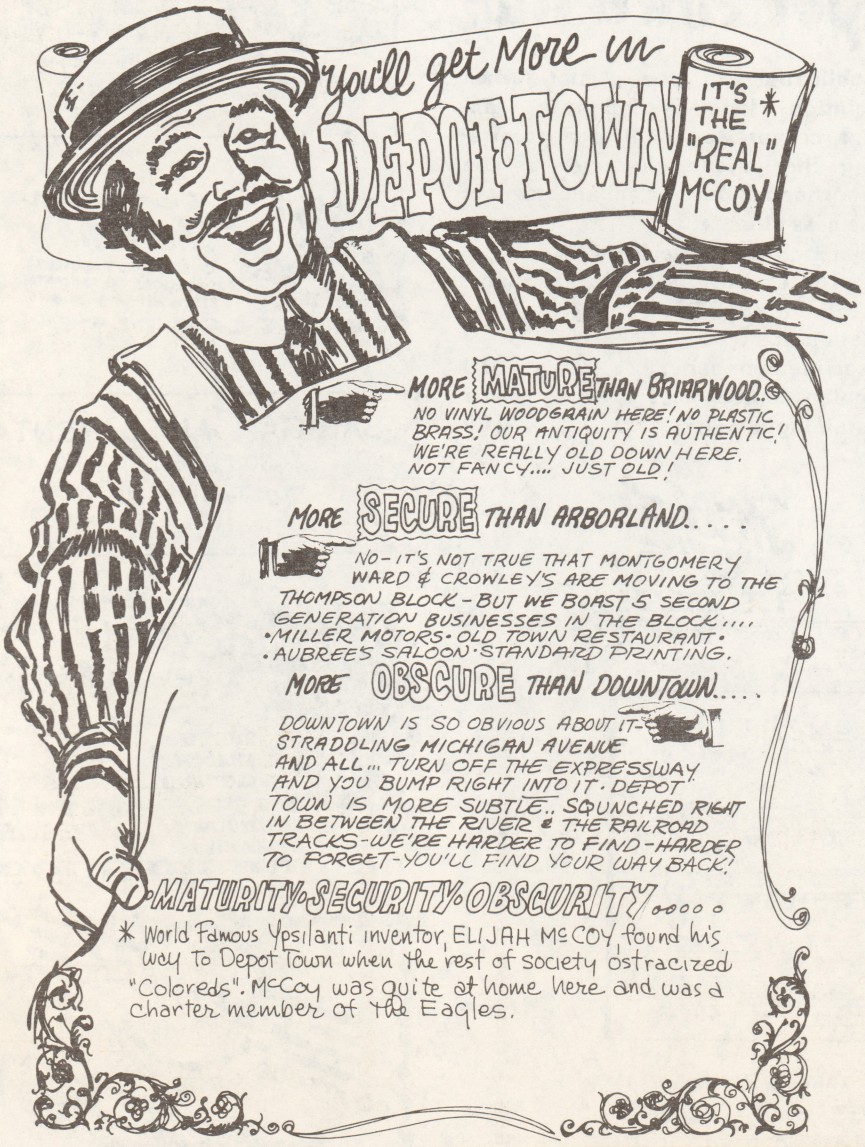
Linda French, one of Depot Town's "founding mothers" is now the mother of the real thing: a 5 lb, 14 oz happy and healthy Jessica Jane, born to proud parents Linda French and Jesse Cossey on Sunday, August 14th. A Depot Town resident since the 1960's when her dad owned the Alibi Bar, Linda became a business and property owner in 1975 when she and partner Steve Gross opened Depot Town's 1st "new business, the Depot Exchange Antiques. An excited congratulations from all of us to Linda, Jesse and Jessica.

Caboose Ventilated

Just in time for the late summer heat wave, John Waite, the inside chair of the DTA caboose, pried those four obstinate windows open and got them working for the first time in one hundred years. John remembers a caboose party which collected $36 for that purpose, and treasurer Diane LaRue still holds that bag. Since there was no expense involed, John suggests we spend it on a large fan for the cupola. We'll have to decide by ourselves, though, since John will be taking the Michigan Artrain to Calfornia and back these next three months.

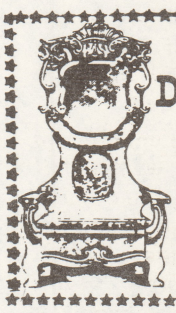
CAMPUS LIFE POSTERS, showing some of the relationships between our business communities and the University have been reduced to two dollars each in many local businesses.

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS to the many Depot Towners who cooperated and stayed open until eight p.m. on Thursday nights all summer long. It was a noble effort and may have proved that opening back up is much harder than closing down in the first place.



Jim MacDonalds Apple Annies
ANTIQUES
Functional Antiques
Vintage Clothing
29 E. Cross Tues.-Sat. 12 -6
481-0555

Something Special
Bridal Gowns, Party Dresses
Suits, Coats, Lingerie
Costumes
Alterations for men or women.
32 E. Cross 484-0475
Hrs.-Tues. thru Fri. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Evenings & Sat. by appointment
in Depot Town


DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St., (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780

Jacqueline's Boutique
25 E. Cross St.
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mi
483-8150
Gently Used
Women's Clothes
10-5 Tue. - Fri.
10 - 4 Sat.

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different

COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
310 River Street
Historic Depot Town

COLLECTIBLES
OLD TOWN TREASURE
32 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
Antiques

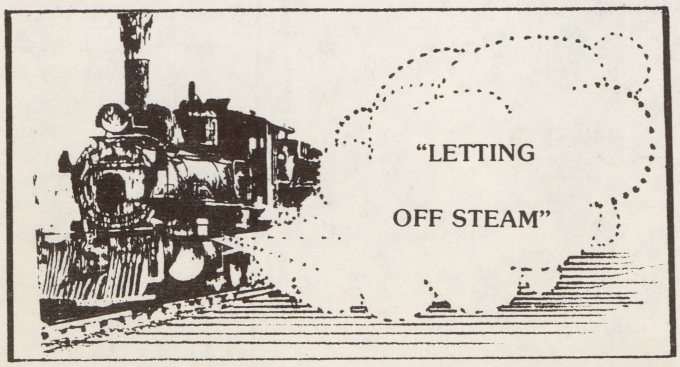
Depot Town Is In The Running

On Saturday, July 28th, "For Women Only - 5 Mile Challenge" went off without a hitch. 109 women met in the Farmers' Market Area, pinned on their numbers, stretched their muscles at a pre-pace clinic put on by "Body Images" and then at the starting gun were off for a 5 mile race which took them through Eastern's Campus to Rynearson Stadium and back to finish on the track on Frog Island. The beautiful island provided the perfect place for the post-race activities which included refreshments, a merchandise drawings and the awards ceremony.

The expenses in putting on such a run are great - T-shirts, police, medical, insurance...and the Ann Arbor Track Club wants to thank everyone who volunteered their time and/or money to help sponsor area runners in their quest to qualify for the Olympic Trials. A special thank you goes to the following Depot Town businesses who donated their money to help defray the costs of the awards:

Rosemary's Corner
The Health Emporium
The Deli Shoppe
And Everything Nice
When in Doubt
Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annies
Aubree's Saloon
Standard Printing
The Sidetrack
The Plastercraft Shop
Phantom of the Attic
Depot Exchange Antiques
Miller's Ice Cream Parlor
Old Town Restaurant
Vintage Passion
River Art Works
Miller Motors

Sincerely,
Lucy Graff & Renee Hochradel,
Race Directors



Next month: Should the D.T.A. sponsor a licensed gambling event during the next year? Why? Why not? Leave your comments in the the Caboose slot before Sept. 15 deadline.

THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION

is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character and history of the Depot Town area and to ensuring the economic growth and stability of the areas. Help support Depot Town and receive the "RAG" at your home.

Cut out and mail to: D.T.A. 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

CUT HERE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Associate membership $10.00

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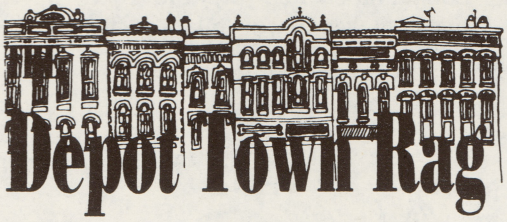

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Carolyn McKeever, president
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